

Iran air chief, aides killed in crash

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's air force chief, his deputy and four other senior officers were among 12 people killed when their plane crashed in central Iran, officials said Friday. General Mansour Sattari, his deputy Gen. Mosafa Ardestani, and four other officers were killed along with six crewmen when their plane crashed late Thursday trying to return to Isfahan airport following "technical difficulties," they said. The plane had taken off for the capital Tehran, they added. Gen. Mansour Sattari, who was 46 and had trained in both Iran and the United States, was considered the architect of the reconstruction and modernisation of the air force which was badly damaged in the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

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Sharif Zeid in consultations, expected to finalise cabinet soon

Majali government remains as caretaker after resigning

New cabinet expected to have wider parliamentary base

By Ghadeer Taher and Ayman Al Safadi

AMMAN — Prime Minister-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker continued consultations late Friday evening over the formation of his new government which is expected to be announced either Saturday or Sunday.

The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali formally submitted its resignation on Thursday to His Majesty King Hussein, who asked the cabinet to remain in office in a caretaker capacity until a new executive authority is formed.

Although it was not officially announced, the King also asked Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to form the new government, sources said.

Sharif Zeid consulted over the past two days with parliamentary blocs, technocrats, and independent politicians to form his cabinet which is expected to include 10-15 lawmakers.

Sources close to Sharif Zeid said he would consult with all the blocs in the Lower House of Parliament before he announces his government. Many parliamentarians agreed and said it was characteristic of Sharif Zeid's politics to consult with the legislature and maintain a good working relationship.

Mr. Abu Jamous said the 17-member Islamic Action Front (IAF), the most influential grouping in the 80-seat house, is not expected to join the new government as a bloc. IAF sources, however, expect Sharif Zeid to consult with the group over the composition of the new cabinet and they expect the new prime minister to set up strong ties with all political groups.

But IAF spokesman Hamza Mansour told the Jordan Times Friday afternoon that his bloc had not been approached by the prime minister-designate. President of the 18-member National Action Front Abdul Baqi Jammo said Sharif Zeid had contacted him and a meeting was expected to take place either late yesterday or today.

Sheikh Jammo said his bloc would take a unified decision on whether to join the government, saying it was willing to join the government provided that its participation is active and real one.

Complete support for Sharif Zeid came from the spokesman of the 10-member National Democratic Coalition, Hammar Abu Jamous, who said his bloc was looking forward to establishing a "productive relationship" with the new government.

Mr. Abu Jamous said the



Abdul Salam Majali



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

bloc was still awaiting consultations with the prime minister-designate.

Although Sharif Zeid has not completed consultations with all parliamentary blocs, representatives of most of the blocs were confident that the new government would enjoy a strong parliamentary base when it seeks the House's vote of confidence.

"Sharif Zeid is a democratic man who respects the House and its institutions," said independent deputy Awad Khleifat, who could be among a 17-member group that some centrist deputies are trying to form.

Sharif Zeid's approach,

said other lawmakers, would result in a smooth executive-legislative relationship.

But some political observers said that the new cabinet would not include as many new faces as earlier expected, giving rise to speculations that the new cabinet would not be able to bring about enough changes to meet the responsibilities of the peace era.

Others, however, expect to see a new cabinet with a strong and a wider parliamentary base.

"The new government will be more representative of political trends in the country," said a deputy who is

expected to be on Sharif Zeid's team.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that the era of peace will require a new spirit to face challenges posed by signing of the Jordan-Israel peace deal.

In addition to the 10-to-15 deputies who are expected to be on Sharif Zeid's team, five to seven ministers from the outgoing government are expected to join the new cabinet.

The deputies expected to be in the government are: Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Abdul Karim Kabariti, Ali Al Ragheb, Saleh Israeidi (minister of water and irrigation in the outgoing cabinet), Sameer Habashneh, Awad Khleifat, Aref Batineh (minister of health), Rabea Al Soud (minister of higher education), Sameer Kawar (minister of transport), Munir Souber, Abdul Karim Al Dughami, Jamal Saraireh and Tawfiq Kreishan (minister of rural and municipal affairs and the environment).

Ministers in Dr. Majali's government who are expected to join the new cabinet in addition to the deputies-ministers mentioned above are: Reema Khalaf, Adel Al Quda and Abdul Razzaq Ensour.

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Crown Prince begins private visit to U.K.

Trip unrelated to cabinet change

By Jennifer Hamarsheh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's departure to London Thursday was neither a political move nor a personal message related to the impending change in the government, a source close to the Crown Prince said Friday.

The source dismissed comments by some observers that the Crown Prince's decision to travel was a demonstration of his preference not to participate in the deliberations in selecting the next Cabinet.

Prince Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday offered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein, and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has been asked to form a new government.

Many observers believe that Prince Hassan was instrumental in forming the last Council of Ministers, particularly in the addition of parliamentarians, among them, Thounan Hindawi, to the cabinet. Mr. Hindawi resigned his cabinet seat on Dec.

5, 1994 over differences in policies in the post-peace era, but other members of parliament have continued to serve in the cabinet until this day.

According to the source, the reshuffle of Dr. Majali's cabinet last June was participated in by the Crown Prince because, at the time, the situation was "unique." The country was moving swiftly towards the signing of a peace treaty with Israel, and the Crown Prince had been actively involved in talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and thus it was apt at the time that Prince Hassan contribute to the ministerial selection process, said the source.

In the current process, the sources added, "the situation is different."

According to the source, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarwat had planned their trip to London more than three months ago with the purpose of accompanying their son Prince Rashid back to the second school term at Harrow in England.

House confident of role in making government

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The continuation of consultations with members of the Lower House of Parliament over the composition of the new government has held up the formation of the cabinet for the past two days as representatives of the five blocs and independent deputies in the House asserted that negotiations will end up in a satisfactory matter to both sides.

Parliamentarians Friday appeared confident that the prime minister-designate, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who they said respects the House and its institutions, will not form his government before consulting with all the blocs that form the 80-member House.

By doing this, observers say, Sharif Zeid will not only be pursuing a democratic way of forming a government but will also ensure the widest parliamentary base for his government which is expected to win a stronger vote of confidence than that of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali's cabinet.

Though Sharif Zeid had not contacted all parliamentary groups by yesterday evening, parliamentarians were expecting this to happen before the new cabinet is announced Saturday or Sunday.

The largest and most coherent bloc that Sharif Zeid will have to deal with is the 17-member Islamic Action Front (IAF), which has sent many signs that it is willing to reach a good working relationship with the prime minister.

Though the Islamists are not expected to join the new government as a group, sources said the IAF will be consulted on its formation.

In what was seen as a signal that the Islamists are willing to join the government in an effort to break away from their isolation in the House and the political arena in general, IAF sources said the absolute veto against joining the executive authority was no longer in effect and their participation will depend on the choice of the ministerial team and the programme of the new cabinet.

The last time the Islamists

(Continued on page 7)

'Jordan is a state of institutions, governments reflect continuity'

By Sa'd Shawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The outgoing government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has left behind a legacy of \$5.352 million in foreign debt, down from the nearly \$7 billion it inherited. The new government of Prime-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will have to work hard to ensure the rescheduling or writing off of a great part of Jordan's foreign debt.

General indicators say that the strongest candidate to fill the finance portfolio in Sharif Zeid's cabinet is Basel Jardaneh, a veteran finance minister who has played a major role in rescheduling Jordan's debts to the London

and Paris clubs before outgoing Finance Minister Sami Qammoh took over 18 months ago. Mr. Qammoh says it is not important who occupies the finance portfolio since Jordan is a state of institutions with clear-cut economic policies.

In a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times Mr. Qammoh said: "We are all in one trench. It is the trench of the homeland."

"The policy followed is continuous and based on handing responsibility from one generation to the other to ensure Jordan's march and achieve its ambitions and aspirations," he said.

The Majali government achieved the most significant

political achievement in more than 20 years by concluding the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, he said.

The Majali government, helped by political and other circumstances, was also able to ensure the write-off of \$831 million of Jordan's foreign debts — \$702 million owed to the United States, \$74 million to Britain and the remaining amount to France and Germany.

Dr. Majali's government has also rescheduled \$2.2 billion of foreign debts whose maturity dates fall in 1995, 1996 and mid-97, according to Mr. Qammoh.

This, he said, pushes the Jordanian economy forward, saves resources for local investments and enhances Jordan's foreign currency reserves.

Answering a question on the volume of loans borrowed by Dr. Majali's government and the volume of repayments, Mr. Qammoh said the government had borrowed \$470 million to support the balance of payments and the Kingdom's foreign currency reserve, while it repaid \$570 million.

Mr. Qammoh called for an intensification of efforts of the private and public sectors and further liberalisation of the national economy.

The portfolios of foreign

affairs and the economic team — the ministries of planning, industry and trade and finance — are seen as the most important in the government. As such, eyes are focused on possible nominees to fill these posts.

Three names were heard Friday as possible contenders to assuming the foreign affairs portfolio. They were of Marwan Al Qassem, who now serves as King Hussein's political advisor, Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, and Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to Washington. The names of Dr. Kamal Shaer and Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, both serving members of the Upper House of Parliament, were also mentioned as possible candidates for the job.

As far as the foreign affairs portfolio was concerned, speculation was that if the King

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. opposes French section in Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States on Friday sharply criticised France's decision to re-establish a diplomatic foothold in Baghdad by opening an interest section at the Romanian embassy there. "We do not believe that this is a timely action. We don't consider the particular decision to be helpful or constructive," State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe announced the move after a meeting in Paris on Friday with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz (see page 12). "We do not believe that this is the appropriate time to make gestures toward Iraq," Ms. Shelly told a news briefing. "Iraq continues to defy the international community and to violate many U.N. Security Council resolutions." Ms. Shelly said a U.N. commission charged with dismantling Iraq's programmes for building weapons of mass destruction reported in December that Baghdad was failing to cooperate. "We believe that such behaviour should not be rewarded. They (the French) did not specifically solicit our advice on this point, but that's our reaction to it," she said.



Majali pays tribute to Greek, EU support for peace treaty

Papandreou begins visit praising Jordanian leadership and policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Friday that the historic friendship between Jordan and Greece, deepened and strengthened by His Majesty King Hussein and the president of Greece, had enriched the Middle East and to guarantee economic development to achieve tangible results for the people of the two countries.

He said Athens was keen to participate in solving two basic problems: to ensure security for all the parties in the Middle East and to maintain peace with Israel.

Mr. Papandreou expressed admiration for His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and described him as a man who writes history.

The Greek premier said Athens would continue to exert efforts to have all parties respect all the articles agreed upon in their peace agreement.

The dinner was attended by Premier-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials.

Mr. Papandreou arrived here from Syria after a three-day visit.

Mr. Papandreou was received upon arrival here by Dr. Majali and senior Jordanian officials.

Mr. Papandreou is accompanied by his wife Dimitra Liani-Papandreou and a government delegation including Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias and Merchant Marine Minister George Katsifas.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Papandreou said: "The main purpose of his visit was to further the relationship between Jordan and Greece.

"Always we have been friends in history, but we

Eyes focused on foreign portfolio, economy team

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All bets remained off Friday as to who would assume the key portfolios of foreign affairs and the economic team as Prime Minister-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker continued consultations on the make-up of his cabinet.

Observers said there were several "cross-wirings" that appeared to preempt the appointments of some key figures to the exclusion of others and a lot depended on the decision of His Majesty King Hussein on who will be the next Royal Court chief to fill the post vacated by Sharif Zeid as he moves to the Prime Ministry.

One of the main factors that could determine the appointments is personality clashes among some of the possible nominees who have worked together in the past in various capacities but found their "chemistry" did not mix, according to observers.

Observers were looking for signs whether Sharif Zeid would bring back most of his colleagues in his former cabinet and if so how many. "Some of the cabinet members used to work closely together and interacted well as a team, particularly in the key portfolios," said an observer. "It would be interesting to see whether Sharif Zeid would opt for some members of the teams or the teams in their entirety."

The portfolios of foreign affairs and the economic team — the ministries of planning, industry and trade and finance — are seen as the most important in the government. As such, eyes are focused on possible nominees to fill these posts.

Marwan Al Qassem, who now serves as King Hussein's political advisor, Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, and Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to Washington. The names of Dr. Kamal Shaer and Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, both serving members of the Upper House of Parliament, were also mentioned as possible candidates for the job.

But he has since assumed the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the

(Continued on page 7)



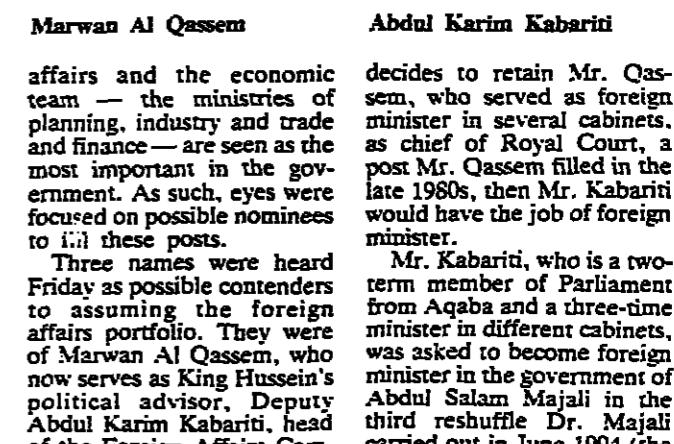
Sami Gammoh



Basel Jardaneh



Marwan Al Qassem



Abdul Karim Kabariti

Washington meeting to discuss Mideast bank

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Experts from 37 countries and international organisations will meet in Washington on Jan. 10-11 to discuss setting up a Middle East development bank, the State Department announced on Thursday.

The meeting follows the Casablanca Middle East/North Africa economic summit two months ago which called for a study of funding mechanisms including a regional development bank to back up the Middle East peace process.

Israel, the Palestinians and a number of Arab states are taking part in the talks. But Syria and Lebanon, which have yet to reach a peace agreements with the Jewish state, have stayed away. The United States, the European Union and Japan are also involved.

U.S. officials say the proposed bank could be modelled on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, set up to aid post-communist Eastern Europe, but they hope it could be set up more rapidly.

Next week's meeting will be the first in a series leading up to a second economic summit in Amman later this year, where conclusions will be announced.

The State Department said the aim is to finance regional infrastructure projects, promote the private sector

and regional economic policy reform and dialogue.

State Department acting spokesperson Christine Shelly said: "This meeting constitutes a key element of the follow-up to the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit held in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 1994, which called for a group of experts to examine different funding mechanisms to support the peace process, including the creation of a Middle East Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development. Attending the meeting will be 37 regional and extra-regional parties participating in and supporting the Middle East peace process."

The Casablanca declaration called for a group of experts to examine different funding mechanisms to support the peace process, including the creation of a Middle East Development Bank. The Jan. 10-11 meeting is the first gathering of this group of experts.

Proposals for the creation of a Middle East development bank originate with the core regional participants in the peace process. The Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles signed in September 1993 called for the creation of such a bank. Jordan and Egypt joined this call in meetings of the four parties in Cairo in late 1994. In October, President Bill Clinton told the Jordanian Parlia-

ment that the U.S. would take the lead in organising interested countries to consider creation of a properly structured regional development bank.

The meeting will consider financing mechanisms for economic development and the creation of new institutions to address key regional needs which are not adequately addressed through existing efforts. These include: the development of regional infrastructure, promotion of the private sector, and enhanced regional economic policy reform and dialogue. Regional development banks exist in other areas and have proved to be effective channels to leverage significant assistance from private and public sources.

Any new institutions would be designed to meet the region's unique economic and political needs and would complement, not duplicate, the work of existing institutions. The basic objective would be to add an effective economic pillar of support for the historic achievements in the peace process since Madrid.

The meeting will be the first in a series of meetings to examine these issues in detail, leading to the second Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Amman, later this year, where key conclusions would be announced.



AL KHADER PROTEST: An elderly Palestinian argues with an Israeli military police officer as he was prevented among other left in the West Bank a Jewish settler dead and Palestinians to hold a demonstration in the another one injured (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Middle East parties remain committed to peace — U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Acting State Department spokesperson Christine Shelly said Thursday that despite recent outbreaks of violence in the West Bank and Gaza, the United States believes that Israel and the Palestinians remain strongly committed to the success of the peace process.

Asked about a recent series of shoot-outs between Israeli and Palestinian security forces, Ms. Shelly noted that five U.S. condemns all violence in the region but does not comment about specific incidents.

"We certainly are aware of the fact that it represents some frustrations on the ground," Ms. Shelly said. "But we feel that there's a very strong commitment to the success of the peace process. We continue to have contact with the parties in this regard."

"We recognise, and certainly the parties (do), that this process was never going to be an easy one, but even in the face of the incidents which do continue and obviously can have an adverse effect on the environment, we still feel that the parties involved are committed to implementing the agreements that they have reached and that's what the process is about."

Against the backdrop of incidents like these, it is very important to do whatever can be done to improve the atmosphere and show the positive benefits associated with the changing situation, she said, "but we know it's going to be a long process, a difficult process."

Perry trip

Defence Secretary William Perry will discuss the Golan Heights in general terms when he visits the Middle East but otherwise intends to

avoid the issue, a senior defence official has said.

Mr. Perry arrives in Cairo on Saturday for two days of talks before continuing on Sunday to Israel, where the peace process has been marred by turmoil in the West Bank and rising tensions between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza.

"We do not intend to get involved in the peace process," said the defence official who spoke privately.

But Mr. Perry's itinerary includes a visit to the Golan Heights, the main sticking point in peace talks between Israel and Syria.

"We are essentially investigating possible technology transfers to China by Israel."

"Those types of reports concern us very deeply," he said, adding that Lynn Davis, undersecretary of state for international security affairs, had held "substantive discussions with the government of Israel on a range of these types of issues."

The suspected technology transfers could be raised in talks with the Israelis but would not be a priority, Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. Perry will be the first U.S. defence secretary to visit the Middle East since 1991. He is expected to travel to Pakistan and India after leaving Israel.

"There are no crises in the relationship, no gaping wound that has to be bandaged," said the defence official. "We are essentially interested in reaffirming that both these countries are integral to our strategy in the region."

Mr. Perry said following a speech at the National Press Club on Thursday that he looked forward to visiting Pakistan and India and holding talks to improve bilateral military ties with those two potential nuclear antagonists.

He will be the first U.S. defence secretary to visit South Asia since former Secretary Frank Carlucci in 1987.

Further clouding the issue of U.S. troops in the Golan is whether the Republican-controlled Congress will move — as Republican lead-

ers have threatened — to bloc U.S. participation in future peacekeeping missions.

The Perry trip comes amid published reports that Israel and China collaborated on developing and producing a new Chinese fighter, the F10, that was based on the Lavi, a joint Israeli-U.S. fighter jet project that was abandoned in 1987.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry confirmed that the United States was investigating possible technology transfers to China by Israel.

President Bill Clinton has said he would consider deploying U.S. troops in the Golan as part of a multinational peacekeeping force once a peace agreement is reached.

The defence official said Mr. Perry's discussions with the Israelis on the Golan Heights and the possible deployment of U.S. troops would be "in general terms, but there will not be particular discussions."

"The peace process has not reached the stage where there has been a specific request or indeed where Syria and Israel has agreed on this. It would be premature to get into any detail," the official said.

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Jordan first to sign U.N. rapid deployment agreement

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh and United Nations Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Forces Affairs Kofi Annan Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding on Jordan's participation in the U.N. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

Under the memorandum, Jordan agrees to provide the U.N. within 10 days with its requirements of resources, including human resources to be used for the U.N.'s peacekeeping operations worldwide.

Jordan is the first country to sign such a memorandum with the U.N.

Landing the Kingdom's initiative, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, said Jordan is the only member state who has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.N. to participate in the RDF.

The idea of establishing a U.N. RDF has been contained in the agenda for peace proposed in 1992 by Dr. Ghali. To translate this idea into action, the U.N. General Secretariat called in

April 1993 for a meeting of the member states concerned to exchange views on the subject.

In September 1993 a U.N. delegation met in Amman with various Jordanian officials from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Transportation, Health, Communications, Finance, as well as with the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department.

Later in September, a Royal Decree was issued endorsing Jordan's participation in the U.N. Rapid Deployment Forces, and the Kingdom and the U.N. worked out details of Jordan's participation.

The memorandum can be amended any time provided that both parties agree to such amendment.

It can also be cancelled provided that a three-month notice to this effect is given by any of the signatory parties.

The Jordanian Armed Forces headquarters will serve as the focal point responsible for mobilisation, coordination and preparation of the force, according to the memorandum's provisions.



Farid Ali Saad

Farid Saad laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Farid Ali Al Saad, a former minister and prominent businessman who passed away Thursday at the age of 87, was laid to rest at Um Al Hiran Cemetery near Amman Friday.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid to attend the funeral of Mr. Saad and offer condolences to his family.

Born in the Palestinian town of Um Al Fahn, Mr. Saad studied at Al Najah School in Nablus before obtaining his bachelor's degree in science from the American University of Beirut (AUB).

He worked until 1935 as a science teacher and school principal. In 1935, he became a district officer in the Palestine government till 1943 when he became manager of the Arab Bank in Haifa.

A strong advocate of the Palestinian cause, Mr. Saad was a member of the War Economic Advisory Council of Palestine government from 1943-1946.

Mr. Saad served twice as minister of finance, and in those two tenures donated his government salary to the University of Jordan's Needy Students Fund.

He was also chairman and managing director of the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company in Amman for more than 50 years, vice chairman of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company until recently, chairman of the Bata Company until recently, chairman of the National Grindlays Bank Ltd., and a member of the Senate from 1951-1955 and 1984-1988.

The deceased was also founder and member of the Arab Orphans Committee in Haifa in 1940 which moved its offices in Amman and now runs a hotel management school in Jerusalem.

In addition, Mr. Saad was the first president of the Rotary Club in Amman, a trustee of the University of Jordan, trustee emeritus of the AUB, a member of the Institute for Palestine Studies-Beyrouth, chairman of the Jordan Printing and Packaging Company and member of the Geneva-based Welfare Association.

"Hunting or trading this bird is illegal because it is an endangered species," Mr. Shabir said, adding that in Europe the saker falcon population has decreased by 80 per cent because of destruction to its habitat.

The RSCN was established in 1966 with the aim of preserving all the elements of nature including wild life. Seven reserves have been established, and five more will be completed by the end of the century.

One of the main objects of the society is to create public awareness of the importance of preserving nature and its resources specifically amongst students.

The seven existing wild reserves are Shomari, Azraq, Zouba, Wadi Mujeb, Wadi Rum, Dana and the Aqaba marine reserve.

They also decided that the

herd must be split. "We need to create another small herd and put it in another place." The herd's movement and health must be monitored to ensure they are not hunted and that they are breeding successfully.

Issa Shabir of the RSCN said that the society will study the suggestions and recommendations and will ask the government to help by offering it a new location for the oryx herd.

The oryx had been extinct in Jordan for 60 years before its reintroduction to the Kingdom in 1978.

After the conclusion of the three-day workshop, the participants held a small "born free" ceremony by releasing a two-year-old saker falcon which was confiscated from a trader who was trying to sell the bird illegally.

"We released this bird to the wild so that it can live and breed and help increase its population," Mr. Shabir told the Jordan Times.

The saker falcon is targeted by many hunters who want to sell this animal or train it for hunting purposes," Mr. Shabir explained.

The bird does not breed in the Middle East, but migrates here in the autumn and spring and spends its winters in North America, Mr. Shabir said.

Hunting or trading this bird is illegal because it is an endangered species," Mr. Shabir said, adding that in Europe the saker falcon population has decreased by 80 per cent because of destruction to its habitat.

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Japan hopes calm will replace clashes at summit with U.S.

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo is hoping that a climate of calm will replace confrontation at a U.S.-Japan summit in Washington next week, giving the two nations a chance to assess just where their relationship should be heading.

"Ways to deepen U.S.-Japan relations, which are critical in the Asian-Pacific region, will top the meeting's agenda," Prime Minister Tomiochi Murayama said Sunday, noting his Jan. 11 summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton comes at the start of a year marking the 50th anniversary of World War II's end.

Analysts of U.S.-Japan ties agree the summit is unlikely to yield anything like the fireworks seen at the February 1994 summit where Mr. Clinton met then-Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Failure to clinch trade deals then not only prompted talk of a confrontational new era in trans-Pacific ties, but also rocked financial markets, sending the yen soaring against the dollar.

Few expect a replay of that drama next week.

Behind this year's low-key mood are factors including domestic distractions for both leaders, greater attention to booming economies elsewhere.

Concern has also been

where in Asia, and the resolution — in form if not in fact — of many of 1994's economic rows.

"In the United States, the president wants to have domestic achievements and for Mr. Murayama, the priority is also domestic issues," said political scientist Kuniaki Inoguchi.

Mr. Clinton faces a Republican Congress born of the Democrats' stunning electoral defeat in November.

Where Japan will be placed on the U.S. congressional agenda remains to be seen. "It's not clear if Japan will matter much in Congress — it may be absorbed with other things," one U.S.-Japan expert said.

Mr. Murayama, too, is dogged by domestic worries.

These include fears that his Socialist Party may come apart and questions about how his unwieldy ruling coalition, which includes the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), will fare in parliament and in local elections next April.

The coalition faces a huge opposition bloc in the recently launched New Frontier Party, which aims to topple the government in general elections, maybe as soon as this autumn.

Concern has also been

raised about the health of the 70-year-old Murayama after he cancelled some official duties this week due to a cold.

Some in Japan worry that domestic distractions, combined with the growing attention paid by both countries to Asia outside Japan, is weakening the bilateral quarter-century.

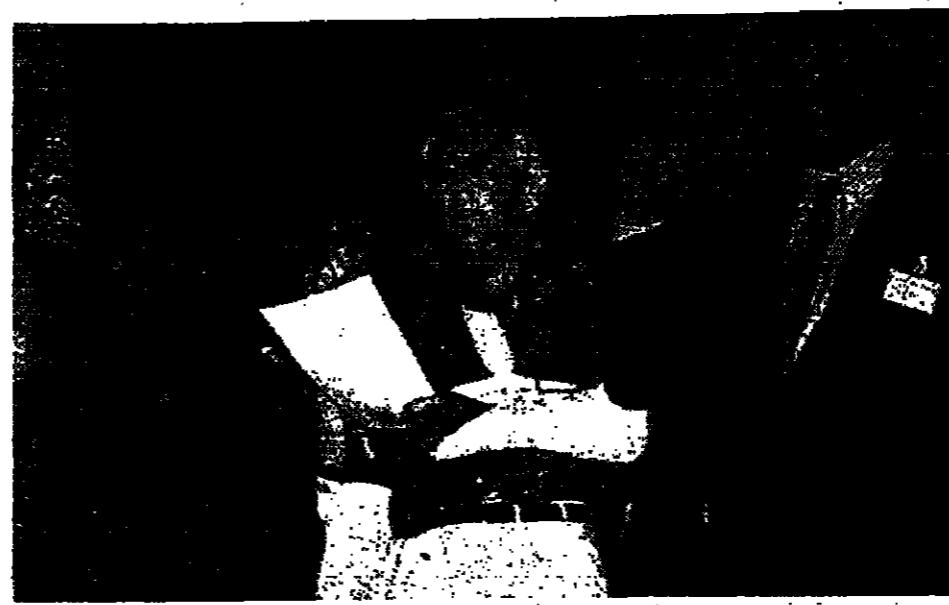
U.S. interest in Japan's efforts to deregulate its economy could come up at the summit, but bilateral trade disputes are expected to take a back seat.

The two sides in recent months have cleared away many of the rows highlighted in last year's economic talks.

After stagnating for months, talks on government procurement and insurance produced pacts last Oct. 1, although the two sides failed to resolve a tougher dispute over better access to Japan's market for cars and car parts.

Talks on auto trade, which accounts for two-thirds of the \$60 billion U.S.-Japan trade gap, are set to resume later this month.

Negotiators have also come close to reaching an agreement on another area given high priority by Washington, better access to Japan's huge financial services market.



File photo dated Dec. 18, 1994 showing South African Housing Minister Joe Slovo at the ANC National Congress. The former South African Communist Party leader during the apartheid years and minister of housing in the

government of national unity of President Nelson Mandela died early Friday at the age of 68 after his long battle with bone cancer (AFP photo)

S. African communist leader Slovo dies

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Joe Slovo, a life-long fighter against apartheid who went from a Lithuanian hamlet to become housing minister in South Africa's first democratic government, died of cancer Friday at the age of 68.

President Nelson Mandela, a close friend who saw Mr. Slovo at his home Thursday night shortly before his death, described the minister as "great African patriot".

"Joe Slovo dedicated his life to the struggle for justice, democracy and freedom in our country," Mr. Mandela said in a statement announcing his death from bone marrow cancer this month.

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ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu stepped down from his post last month after witnessing black majority rule in the country's historic all-race elections last April.

Concern has been expressed over the health of Mr. Mandela, who underwent an eye operation last year. His spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe told Reuters Friday Mr. Mandela was in good health and rested after a Christmas and New Year holiday break.

But he faces a punishing schedule, starting with a visit to India — the first country to impose sanctions against apartheid South Africa — late this month.

Mr. Slovo — the first white member of the African National Congress' National Executive — died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Johannesburg's Observatory District where he lived with his second wife, Helena.

His wife and daughters Shauan, Gillian and Robyn were at his side.

Mr. Slovo's first wife Ruth first was killed in Mozambique in 1982 by a parcel bomb sent by South African agents during his 27-year exile for his fight against apartheid.

He said of the killing: "The way I've rationalised it is that the most effective punishment is to force those who did it to live in a democratic South Africa."

Mr. Mandela, 76, is seeing the old guard of anti-apartheid fighters fade slowly from the scene.

ANC National Chairman Oliver Tambo died in April 1993, days after Communist Party Secretary-General Chris Hani was killed by right-wing whites in an assassination that shook the country.

A burly man with a shock of white hair before cancer took its toll, he returned to South Africa in 1990 after then-president F.W. De Klerk legalised the ANC and the SACP. Mr. Slovo had joined at the age of 16.

He became housing minister in Mr. Mandela's government of national unity after the ANC won a sweeping victory in the April elections.

The portfolio is an important one in a government seeking to redress the inequities of apartheid, and Mr. Slovo had pledged decent housing for all South Africans.

Doctors earlier this week advised him to rest, but he continued to work to the end, holding daily meetings with his director-general Billy Cobbett and members of his staff. Mr. Cobbett said it was still "far too early" to name his successor.

The National Party, which institutionalised racial segregation after coming to power in 1948 and fought bitterly for white supremacy until Mr. De Klerk announced in 1990 an end to apartheid, said it had developed a "healthy respect" for Mr. Slovo.

"Although Mr. Slovo was a political opponent, and there was no secret regarding our political difference," said party spokesman Martin Van Schalkwyk.

"Since his appointment as minister, he played a very constructive role in government," Mr. Van Schalkwyk said. He described Mr. Slovo's death as "a great loss to the people of this country" who had dedicated his life to the "liberation of the oppressed".

McCurry gets White House press post

WASHINGTON (USA) — President Bill Clinton told reporters State Department spokesman Mike McCurry will become White House press secretary after a short transition period.

Mr. McCurry said he will start his new duties Friday, attending senior staff meetings and splitting his time between the White House and State. He said he will not begin briefing at the White House until he is up to speed on all aspects of multi-party elections last May.

"This is the kind of behaviour which we should not accept or condone in the new Malawi," he said.

MCC spokesman Dr. Heatherwick Ntata told Reuters he believed the attacks were planned in advance. He said the MCP had restrained its own supporters otherwise there would have been "a very violent blood bath."

Diplomats said violence was possible in a country which split along ethnic lines during the elections that brought Mr. Muluzi and his United Democratic Front to power.

"I condemn without reservation these acts of wanton destruction," said Mr. Muluzi, who ousted Mr. Bandu after 30 years of autocratic rule in the country's first multi-party elections last May.

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"I condemn without reservation these acts of wanton destruction," said Mr. Muluzi, who ousted Mr. Bandu after 30 years of autocratic rule in the country's first multi-party elections last May.

"This is the kind of behaviour which we should not accept or condone in the new Malawi," he said.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1995 5



Chechen volunteers fight Russian soldiers for the control of Grozny. President Boris Yeltsin announced that special forces are on their way to reinforce Russian contingent in the

Chechenya crisis could threaten CFE treaty

LONDON (Agencies) — The crisis over Chechenya could threaten a landmark European arms treaty and has provoked fresh Russian appeals that the agreement should be changed to reflect Moscow's concerns about the troubled Caucasus, diplomats say.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, signed in 1990 by members of NATO and the now-defunct Warsaw Pact, provides for the biggest cuts in arms control history in tanks, armoured vehicles and other equipment.

Despite the end of the cold war, the agreement was widely seen as a cornerstone of security on the continent.

But it has already run into trouble. The collapse of the Soviet Union meant the treaty's provisions were delayed and Russia has complained for almost two years about limits on equipment deployment, which must be met by November.

Russia says limits on its southern flank are too strict given problems in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh and now Chechenya.

Western allies and Mos-

cow's former satellites in Eastern Europe have refused to change the treaty, drawing a threat from Russia to quit the pact altogether early last year.

With broader economic and political relations between the West and Russia now threatened by the Chechenya crisis and Moscow already at odds with NATO over expansion into Eastern Europe, the treaty could be in serious trouble, diplomats say.

"The Russians have moved a lot of equipment down into Chechenya and they are well in excess of what the treaty permits," said one diplomat who asked not to be identified.

"They say the fighting has justified their earlier appeal to revise the whole thing," he said.

Diplomats say it now looks increasingly unlikely that Russia will meet the November deadline to comply with the limits.

They were already over the top before Chechenya and if they don't meet the deadline, they will be in violation. That would be se-

rious," said another diplomat.

Senior NATO officials are due to meet in Brussels next Wednesday for a regular meeting to review progress on implementing the treaty.

Diplomats said the problems caused by Chechenya were bound to come up and that the issue had already been raised with Moscow.

"What they (the Russians) said to us was that they had moved equipment down there but that some of it had been destroyed anyway, in the fighting around Grozny," said one diplomat.

Diplomats said it was not clear exactly how much equipment had been moved to Chechenya. The CFE treaty covers only military hardware, not troop deployments.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has already appealed to the West to agree changes to the pact, arguing that it reflects the old East-West divide rather than current realities.

Diplomats said Russia had also failed to notify other European states of its troop movements into Chechenya, under the terms of a Vienna agreement designed to promote security by giving full information on military deployments.

Russian diplomats said these confidence and security-building measures were valid only in peacetime and that Moscow was effectively at war with the breakaway region.

Meanwhile, President Yeltsin's gamble on winning a quick victory in Chechenya could have disastrous consequences and cost him the much-needed backing of the armed forces, analysts in Moscow said.

"The military understand that once again they have been used as a political tool, and were sent in to Chechenya simply to improve Yeltsin's plummeting popularity ratings," said Alexander Kononov, director of the Russian Academy of Science's Military Policy Centre.

The Kremlin's mixing of politics and armed force in the intervention in the breakaway republic has turned out to be a disaster and an undertaking for which the Russian army conspicuously lacks any enthusiasm.

Charles would divorce Princess Diana sooner rather than later and it was a pity the prince had to marry a virgin.

Lord Charteris, still very close to the inner royal circle, also described the queen mother as a "bit of an ostrich."

But the visibly chastened 81-year-old former aide said Thursday his remarks had not been intended for publication.

"Those remarks were private... I said them off the record and I don't want to discuss it," he told British television.

The Duchess of York, dubbed "fergie" due to her maiden name Sara Ferguson, shrugged off his criticism of her.

"Everyone is entitled to

Charles taunts media with another stolen kiss

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles has thumbed his nose at the country's racy tabloid press with another public kiss on the lips of a young female ski partner.

A front page photograph published by Britain's Today newspaper Friday showed the defiant heir to the throne embracing a blonde woman in the same spot at a Swiss ski resort where he kissed a young girl called Tilly 24 hours earlier.

Pictures inside the paper revealed the recipient was 23-year-old Tanya Palmer-Tomkinson, daughter of close friends of the prince.

"It was clear the fun-loving prince was taking the mickey (having a joke) with his fresh clinch on the snowy slopes of Switzerland," the paper said. The couple burst out

laughing in front of the cameras afterwards.

The revelation Wednesday of Prince Charles' first impulsive embrace of 29-year-old Tilly Legge-Bourke — who looks after his two young sons — unleashed frenzied press speculation on their relationship and its effect on his estranged wife Princess Diana.

The trials and tribulations of Britain's troubled royal family grabbed headlines for the second day with surprisingly frank comments from the queen's retired private secretary, who labelled the outcast Duchess of York "vulgar, vulgar vulgar."

In an interview with the weekly Spectator magazine, Lord Charteris, Queen Elizabeth's top official for more of the 1970s, said Prince Charles would divorce Princess Diana sooner rather than later and it was a pity the prince had to marry a virgin.

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Sri Lankan president announces Jan. 8 war truce

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's president Friday hailed a truce with Tamil rebels due to start Sunday as "hopefully the dawn of a new era," after a 12-year war which has cost 30,000 lives.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said proposals for power-sharing in the north and the east, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are fighting a Tamil homeland, would be put to the rebels soon.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is also finance minister, said peace would also yield an economic dividend. The war costs the government \$400 million a year.

"The fundamental obstacle to increased foreign invest-

ment is Sri Lanka's costly and prolonged ethnic conflict," she told the opening of a new parliamentary session.

The truce, the first since June 1990, was agreed between government and rebel representatives when they met for a second round of peace talks in rebel-controlled Jaffna town Tuesday.

The two sides also agreed on a 40-billion-rupee (\$816 million) rehabilitation plan for the north.

Military sources said the truce was likely to include the establishment of demilitarized zones and possibly a corridor for aircraft movement over the Jaffna peninsula in the north, the strongest

ghold of the Tigers.

It would be monitored by a committee, including foreign representatives, probably from the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ICRC has been exchanging letters between Mrs. Kumaratunga and rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran since the talks began.

Tuesday's meeting was the first since talks were suspended in late October after the killing by a suicide bomber of opposition presidential candidate Gammie Disanayake and 53 others. Some police officers blamed the Tigers, who denied involvement.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, whose People's Alliance won Au-

gust general elections partly on promises to make peace, was driven to parliament amid unprecedented security because of intelligence reports that Tiger suicide squads had infiltrated the capital.

Traffic along roads to parliament, lined by police and armed troops, was stopped until the presidential motorcade passed. More troops and police in boats patrolled the lake around Parliament House.

A ceasefire, accompanied by peace talks was in force from April 1989 to June 1990. It broke down through mutual mistrust and lack of progress towards a lasting solution.

Singapore hangs Hong Kong woman for drugs

SINGAPORE (R) — Relatives and friends mourned a young Hong Kong mother hanged in Singapore Friday for drug trafficking despite a stay of execution over Christmas and international pleas for mercy.

Angel Mou Pui-Peng, 25, an unmarried mother whose execution was postponed so she could spend Christmas with her family, was hanged in Changi Prison Friday morning.

She was cremated in the early evening at Mount Vernon Crematorium after a short service attended by her grief-stricken sister and close friends and well-wishers.

"Our sister Angel has now been taken to heaven... a place we will go and we shall

hope to see her there one day," an elderly pastor, speaking in Cantonese, told the congregation of some 25 people.

"When are you coming back to Hong Kong?" a young woman cried in Cantonese as she, Ms. Mou's sister Cecilia and a few others watched the coffin, covered in black velvet, disappear into the furnace.

Ms. Mou's father, who declined to speak to reporters, stayed outside in a white Salvation Army van parked behind the hall. The father, reportedly reconciled with his daughter during her brief stay of execution, broke down uncontrollably when he was joined outside by his daughter Cecilia after the crea-

mation.

Ms. Mou was born in the Portuguese-administered territory of Macau and had a Portuguese passport but lived in Hong Kong. She was arrested at Changi Airport on Aug. 29, 1991, after arriving from Bangkok.

The Central Narcotics Bureau said a total of 20 packets containing 4.1 kg (nine lb) of heroin was found in her luggage.

Under Singapore law, the death sentence is mandatory for anyone over 18 convicted of trafficking in more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin, 30 grams (one ounce) of morphine or 50 grams (18 oz) of cannabis.

Ms. Mou's lawyer Peter Yap told Reuters that Ms.

U.N. seeks more troops for Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations has asked for another 6,000 peacekeeping troops to monitor the latest ceasefire in Bosnia, a U.N. spokesman said Friday as officials struggled to cement the truce.

Diplomats from the international "contact group" on Bosnia agreed a strategy for advancing the peace process at a meeting in Bonn and were presenting it to their governments for approval, a diplomatic source said.

The contact group officials — from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — did not disclose details but agreed to meet again in Paris Tuesday.

The four-month cessation of hostilities signed Dec. 31 calls for the deployment of United Nations troops between rival Serb and Bosnian government forces.

"We need more troops to monitor the ceasefire in Bosnia," the spokesman told Reuters in Zagreb. "A request has been made for another 6,000 troops to be sent in."

Countries already providing troops for the U.N. Pro-

tection Forces in Bosnia had been asked to send more.

There are currently around 23,000 United Nations troops in Bosnia, but U.N. commanders in the field say this is not enough to monitor hundreds of kilometres of front lines.

Fighting has generally subsided in Bosnia since the cessation of hostilities agreement was signed, with the exception of the northwestern Bihać enclave, where rebel Serbs and Muslims have not signed the pact.

The contact group officials — from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — did not disclose details but agreed to meet again in Paris Tuesday.

The statement however made clear that a high state of combat readiness would still be maintained in the 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic controlled by the Serbs.

The Serbs were protesting at the Bosnian government's failure to withdraw all troops from a demilitarized zone on Mount Igman just outside the city by a Wednesday deadline.

"This was a certain setback in facilitating the process of cessation of hostilities. But we must remember that this peace process will be a painful one. The parties still enormously mistrust each other," U.N. spokesman Alex Ivanov said.

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Challenge of new Cabinet

NO MATTER whom he chooses to join his government, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the man who led Jordan's administration twice in the Kingdom's past five crucial years, faces a formidable challenge and a historic legacy brought mainly by the signing last year of a peace treaty with Israel. Sharif Zeid's mandate appears focussed on three fronts: The peace process, relations with the Palestinian leadership and other Arab countries and the formidable task of political, economic and administrative reforms.

On the peace front Jordan needs to consolidate the peace and help achieve breakthroughs on other tracks, and it needs to take economic advantage of the new era.

The Jordanian leadership, in a warmer peace with Israel than Egypt's, is poised to play a greater role than that of Cairo mediating between the Israelis on the one side and the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese on the other. If Jordan aspires to a greater and more secure regional role, it has to be forthcoming in formulating its own strategy pushing it forward. The notion that Jordan did not sign peace for economic reasons as well is not accurate. Jordan should win dividends of peace just like Egypt and Israel did when they signed their Camp David Accords in 1978. The Kingdom should make clear to Israel, the U.S. and Europe that for peace to hold anywhere in the region its effects must be felt by ordinary people, those who for decades paid the price of war and instability. Jordan did not only make peace to regain its rights, of which it has been deprived for decades, but also served every other party to the process in one way or the other. It provided Israel with peace with another Arab country than Egypt, it gave the Syrians a block upon which to build, the Americans another breakthrough and the rest of the Arabs an example to follow. More important, it added another block to the wall of stability in the Middle East, a stability that is very important for the interests of the U.S., Europe, the West and world peace in general.

On the front of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, an issue of vital importance to Jordan's sacred national unity, a great deal of misunderstanding and mistrust has developed over the past year. While we hope the Palestinian leadership would do its part to improve bilateral ties, we believe that the new government will be in a better position to contribute to a resumption of constructive dialogue and genuine cooperation with our brethren in Palestine. While we recognise the efforts of the Majali government towards Arab reconciliation a great deal of work lies ahead. The Arab League should be viewed as the best forum for such a move at the present stage.

But the local scene, where genuine change that will affect the future of the country, is certainly the most important. In this regard, reform is needed in three areas: Politics, the economy and government administration. In politics, a minimum level of national consensus is overdue. In this regard, it is most heartening to note that the Islamic Action Front is moving closer to the mainstream consensus. Also important is a new look and a fresh approach to the subject of national unity. The issue needs to be moved from being merely a slogan into practical application that would address the grievances of all and lead to an even split of power and social justice.

Economic problems are very obvious to all the concerned bodies and politicians. Their resolution, however, hinges on making a greater effort at real reforms including privatisation and deregulation. In this vein, the issue of administrative reform should be on the top of the government's list of priorities. For unless the government body that plans and executes policy is cleaned up and modernised all talk about other reform will be meaningless.

Perhaps the formation of Sharif Zeid's government will give the clue to where we are heading.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

And the Jordanian march continues

A GREEK MARATHON — that is the best way to describe the change of governments in Jordan since it is abundantly clear that every new head of government is taking the torch from his predecessor and running that extra mile in the course of the country's advance.

The resignation of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and His Majesty King Hussein's choice of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as the head of the new government were not exactly a surprise or shock. I might even venture to say that when Dr. Majali was appointed prime minister on May 29, 1993, the course Jordan was following and had to follow was spelt out very distinctly. The country needed someone like Dr. Majali to take resolute steps and run that extra mile towards making peace with Israel.

Indeed, Dr. Majali successfully leaped that extra mile as we all witnessed when Israel and Jordan signed their historic peace treaty on Oct. 26, but it is naive to suggest that Dr. Majali's resignation came as a response to mounting criticism from Parliament and political parties and worsening relations between the executive authority and legislature as a result of his government's political and economic policies.

For practical and technical purposes, the Majali government was mandated with certain specific tasks, starting with amending the Election Law, introducing economic reforms, and of course making peace with Israel among other things. No government headed by a politician with hopes for a political career would have undertaken to perform these tasks if only because of the minefields that surrounded the course to these goals (remember why the government had to wait more than one year before introducing the sales tax law in June 1994). More than a dozen members of the cabinet who had parliamentary aspirations waged a strong campaign to put off introducing the controversial levy as long as they were in office, obviously with an eye at their chances of election/relection in the November 1993 polls. But it was some of the former cabinet members who did enter Parliament who were the strongest proponents of the levy when the issue was debated in the House.

But Dr. Majali was courageous enough not only to shoulder the responsibilities that carried risks but also to ensure that the responsibilities were successfully served and the national goals were achieved despite the brickbats that greeted him along the way. The bouquet of peace was the best reward for him in the end. The country and its people gained a lot to him.

It is easy to rule that the policies and practices of the Majali government were highly unpopular. But then, it is

no secret that any government implementing controversial but inevitable self-reliance-oriented economic and social reforms and introducing unpopular fiscal measures — the sales tax law for instance — in a society long used to state sponsorship would have been castigated whether in Jordan or anywhere else. The Majali cabinet was no exception. If anything, the government that succeeds the Majali cabinet should be reaping the benefits of the policies and measures adopted and implemented by its predecessor. Indeed there may be a few problems here and there, but then those are the inevitable legacy when governments change.

That does not mean, however, Sharif Zeid's task is any easier. The former commander-in-chief of the army who successfully led two governments since 1989 will shoulder the responsibility of streamlining the internal affairs of the country inasmuch as he also needs to advance Jordan's quest to bring about a better balance in inter-Arab relationships.

For one thing, any new government in Jordan at this point in history faces the task of tackling the high unemployment in the country. Any successful solution to this problem lies only through fundamental changes in the mindset of the people and the antiquated value system of our society. The recent national census has brought out some of the ridiculous but true features of the problem: for one thing, it found that there are 288,000 foreign workers in the country while an equal number of Jordanians remain unemployed. Among the 288,000 are 54,000 Sri Lankan domestics, a figure that is totally unjustifiable, given the size of the Jordanian society and the average family income.

Take for instance, the finding that 107,000 families live under the poverty line with a monthly income of less than JD 120 and 32,000 of those families live in absolute poverty with a monthly income of less than JD 60, with many of their members unemployed. How do we solve this problem except through bringing about sweeping changes in the thinking of the people, given the high number of foreign workers in the country that indicates available employment opportunities? Jordanians will have to understand and appreciate the dignity of labour, whether in farms or in petrol stations, rather than living in a superficial state of mind boosted by a false sense of social superiority. Our information media have to play a major role in bringing about that change, but the government has to begin the initiative.

Despite the immense efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the mindset of our bureaucrats remains little

changed towards accepting the inevitability of dramatic changes in approach if Jordan were to reap the dividends of peace through attracting investments. This is also an area that the Sharif Zeid government would have to tackle by taking the bull by the horns. The present stage in our lives is too precious and important to be governed by sensitivities that prompt government leaders to balk at injecting young blood into our bureaucracy to replace many civil servants who serve little purpose other than being heavy paperweights in their offices.

Improving relations between the executive and legislative is another task cut out for the Sharif Zeid government. But, given the high respect and clean record of Sharif Zeid and the popularity the prime-minister-designate enjoys among the people and political leaders, this should not be a major problem; if anything, the change in relationship could be automatic as much as it would be a result of a concerted effort.

The same applies to a large extent to Jordan's relations with the Arab World. Take for instance, the "quiet" nature of Amman-Damascus ties. Little improvement could be expected in this context as long as Syria did not actually makes peace with Israel, and once it did then the way for Jordanian-Syrian relations is automatically opened. Any shifts in the present coolness in ties would fall short of the desired level of warmth until such time a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement is thrashed out.

As to the Gulf states, it is only a matter of time before the so-called isolation of Jordan is completely ended. We have made major achievements in improving our ties with several Gulf states, and those which are still cool to our goodwill gestures and sincere wish to see a better atmosphere prevail in the Arab World would find out for themselves the folly in their approach.

But that does not imply that our government should sit back and relax, waiting for things to happen. It has to maintain its efforts for pan-Arab unity and solidarity and improved relations with all members of the one Arab family but not at the expense of our national interests and principles cherished so much by our leadership and people. History has taught us that sacrificing our national interests and priorities for the sake of Arab interests and priorities is not appreciated and we end up the losers.

In sum, Sharif Zeid takes over the helm of our government at another major juncture in our history, and, hopefully, he would easily run his part of that extra mile in the great Jordanian marathon, holding aloft the torch of our march.

U.S.-Algerian connection under new scrutiny

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — The international fallout from the hijacking of an Air France jet will include fresh scrutiny of a U.S. connection with Algeria's Islamic fundamentalist opposition.

This friction may now ease, officials say, because the Western governments will have to take a harder look at the options in Algeria.

Clinton administration officials repeated their view recently that Paris should attempt to find and nurture a Muslim-led moderate front and, in any case, press the Algerian government to offer a calendar for elections.

In the U.S. view, the Algerian military regime's repressive approach — confirmed by a scorched-earth policy applied in the countryside in recent months in which killing has been widespread — has strengthened, not weakened, the resistance.

In private, French officials frequently make the point that no American has been killed by terrorists in Algeria who have murdered 25 Frenchmen and a number of foreigners from several other countries.

The implication is that Islamic fundamentalists have some special U.S. backers, a charge rejected by U.S. officials. They say the small number of Americans in Algeria explains the absence of casualties.

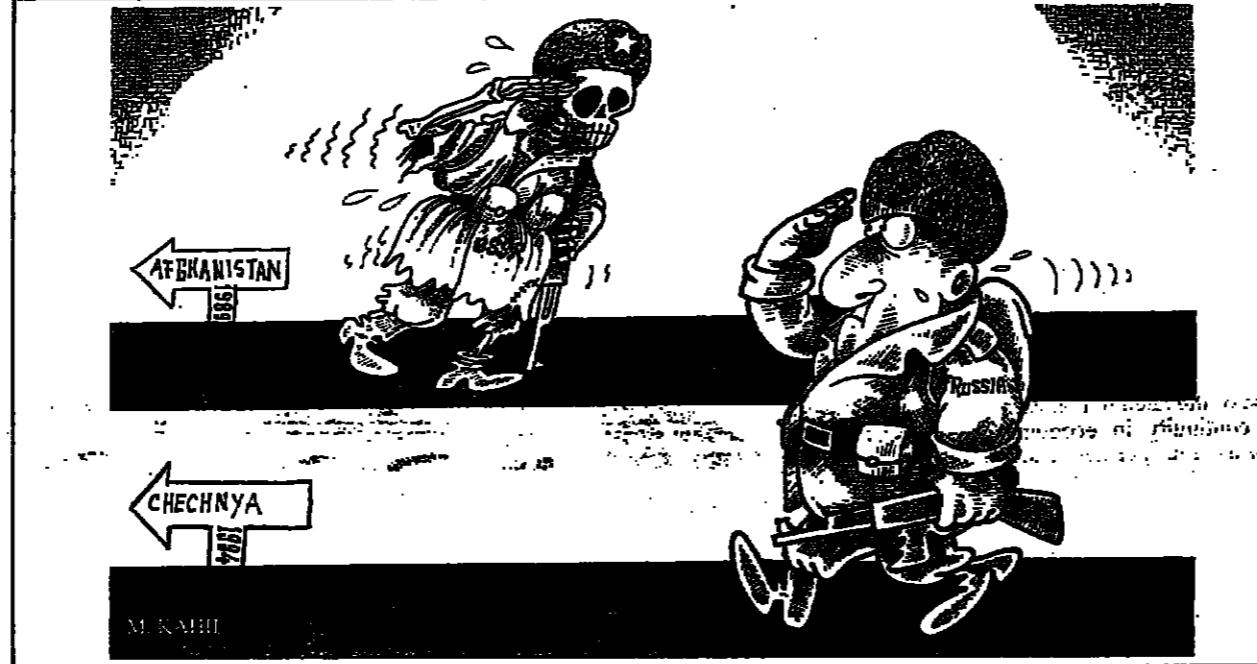
The French government, anxious to avoid an Islamic takeover in Algeria before elections in France in the spring, has resisted any dialogue with the Muslim groups and sought instead to bolster the Algerian government.

French officials have complained publicly about the unwillingness of the United States and Germany to provide more financial support to Algiers and their readiness to give political asylum to opposition leaders.

The emotional force of French concern, however, seems more to do with history, specifically the growth of U.S. importance in Algeria after the war of independence with France. While largely unofficial, American aid to Algerian revolutionaries who won independence still rankles in France, which has a traditional postcolonial interest in Algeria and the rest of North Africa.

U.S. anti-colonialism in the 1950s and '60s was aimed primarily at preempting Soviet influence. But independent Algeria expanded its U.S. political and economic ties, especially in the oil business, in a way that is rare among former French colonies. And the Clinton administration has accepted French calls for the West to promote other Algerian political factions in order to prevent an Islamic takeover that could destabilise neighbouring countries in North Africa.

Current French suspicion



New government to face host of domestic issues

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

PROSPECTS of a new government, domestic issues, the situation in Chechnya, the situation in the Arab occupied lands and other topics attracted columnists and editorial writers of the local press in the past week.

While the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali bussed itself with the peace treaty with Israel, the new government is bound to face a very huge task in dealing with domestic issues said Al Dustour daily. Majali did his best and served his country with honour at a very critical stage achieving for Jordan a very vital objective but the new government would be facing no lesser mission mainly at the domestic level which abounds with chronic problems said the writer.

This view was echoed by Mohammad Daoud, a columnist for Al Dustour, who expressed the opinion that domestic issues pose a serious challenge to the new government. We cannot remain impulsive and waiting for matters to improve as a result of the peace treaty but we ought to embark immediately on measures to improve the internal situation, said the writer. Among the main issues facing the government he added was the rising cost of living, unemployment and poverty, he said.

Mahmoud Rimawi took another view expressing hope that the new government would give priority to improving Jordan's relations with the other Arab states. What we need, said the writer, is to improve the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as a first step and reassess Jordan's role in supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people. He said that Jordan should seek an Arab summit so as to revive pan-Arab solidarity.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Tareq Masarweh a writer for Al Ra'i criticised the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources for inviting fuel truck owners to bid for the lowest rates for transporting crude oil from Iraq to the refinery in Zarqa. The writer said that the ministry has not consulted with the Transport Ministry which concerns itself with the question of axial weights and the damage to the roads in Jordan. Competing fuel truck owners will of course offer rates favourable to the Energy Ministry but will not take into account the amounts of fuel which their trucks carry, he said. Noting that the Energy Ministry is offering JD 7.25 for a tonne of transported crude down from JD 16.85. He said the move would tempt the truck owners to load their vehicles with as many tonnes of fuel as possible to get higher prices regardless of

the extra weight which is bound to harm the roads. A writer for Al Ra'i compared Russian President Boris Yeltsin with Stalin trying to revive the Russian empire by subduing the Chechen people by force. Bassam Enoush, an Islamist member of Parliament, said Yeltsin had not learnt from the lessons of the past when the Russian scars were unsuccessful in subjugating the Chechen people. The Russians have not learnt from the lessons of their defeat in Afghanistan where they met stiff resistance and had to withdraw from that country, added Enoush. He said that the Arab had Islamic countries have a duty to support their brethren in Chechnya now facing the Russian aggression.

Jordanians are following

build Jewish settlements on their land. The Al Dustour columnist said that the Israeli repressive measures coupled with continued disregard for the Oslo agreement can only create tension and render all peace agreements futile. The use of force against the Arab people trying to defend their land from aggression makes peaceful coexistence impossible between the Jews and the Arabs, the writer said.

Sultan Al Hattab said that Israel can achieve no real peace with any Arab state without first making peace with the Palestinians. The Al Ra'i columnist said that the Rabin government's persistence on building the settlements reflects the intention of killing all chances of peace first with the Palestinians and second with the rest of the Arab World. The signing of treaties does not mean that peace has been accomplished and the weakness of Arabs in confronting Israel's arrogance is not bound to last for ever, warned the writer. The Al Ra'i columnist said that the Rabin government's persistence on building the settlements reflects the intention of killing all chances of peace first with the Palestinians and second with the rest of the Arab World. The signing of treaties does not mean that peace has been accomplished and the weakness of Arabs in confronting Israel's arrogance is not bound to last for ever, warned the writer. 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Sharif Zeid in cabinet consultations

(Continued from page 1)

Other expected ministers are: Bassel Jardaneh, Ibrahim Izzeddin, Kamel Al Ajlouni, and Ahmad Halayee.

In a letter accepting Dr. Majali's resignation the King praised his efforts over the 18 months of his tenure in serving the country at a time

when the Kingdom was facing huge challenges and pressures.

Dr. Majali, in his resignation letter to the King, said his government was stepping down to open the way for a new government that would assume the responsibility of dealing with the challenges ahead.

Parliament blocs confident of role

(Continued from page 1)

are trying to put their relations back on track with the establishment have started to appear lately and that is expected to make Sharif Zeid's effort to bring about reconciliation with the opposition bear fruit.

The other large though less coherent bloc in the House is the National Action Front (NAF), which includes 18 deputies. Sharif Zeid is not expected to have a hard time winning the confidence of this bloc though it is expected to make some demands on the portfolios its members will have if they are to join the government due to its strong relations with the outgoing cabinet of Dr. Majali.

"We took part in cabinets at the hardest of times and we are willing to participate in the new government provided that we have real and active participation," Chairman of the Bloc Abdul Baqi Jammo told the Jordan Times.

The 10-member National Democratic Coalition has warmly welcomed the appointment of Sharif Zeid

as prime minister-designate and are hopeful for a productive relationship with the new government.

Sharif Zeid can count on the support of the coalition which includes many parliamentary heavyweights of whom some have worked with Sharif Zeid before and enjoy good relationship with him. The bloc includes Hamoud Abi Janous, Abdul Karim Kabariti, Saleh Israelet and Saad Hayel Srour.

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Awad Khleifat, an independent deputy who had served in the two previous governments of Sharif Zeid, was confident that the prime minister-designate will consult with all parliamentary blocs and win their support before forming the government.

That, they said, will ensure a smoother executive-legislative relationship than the one that preceded it.

Key member of an economic team under Sharif Zeid along with Dr. Ziad Fariz, who now serves as advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Abdullah Ensour, now a member of Parliament, who has also served as minister of planning, minister of education (for a short period) and minister of industry and trade.

However, there was no indication on Friday whether Sharif Zeid in fact wanted to replace Planning Minister Hisham Al Khatib, who has worked with Mr. Jardaneh in a former cabinet but as minister of energy and mineral resources.

Rima Khalaf, the first woman member of a Jordanian Cabinet since Iman Mufit in the early 80s, is too deep into structural reforms in the investment climate in the country in her present capacity as minister of trade and industry. These are qualities which are shared by Mr. Qassem.

If Mr. Qassem is appointed as foreign minister in the Sharif Zeid cabinet, then Mr. Kabariti might be offered the information portfolio, a post the influential deputy might be reluctant to accept without solid guarantees of independence from undue influences of other ministries.

As far as the economic team is concerned, Basel Jardaneh, who served as minister of finance during some of the crucial years for Jordan's economy in the late 80s and early 90s, is tipped to be brought back to his job by Sharif Zeid.

Mr. Jardaneh, a leading banker who is now president of Royal Jordanian, was the

outgoing prime minister, in an interview with the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Network (MBN), denied that the reasons for the change in government was his team's failure to contain the opposition and focus sufficient attention on improving relations with the Arab World.

Saudi Arabia's paper parliament seeks a role

Leslie Plommer, recently in Riyadh, surveys the vacant opulence of the country's majlis al shura

his appointees.

"We have no one to satisfy but God and the king," says the shura's deputy chairman, Abdullah Naseef.

His is probably the most educated political assembly in the world. More than half the members have PhDs, Dr. Naseef's being in geology from Leeds University. The mix includes businessmen, lawyers, engineers, Islamic, sharia law specialists, and senior officials. Regional and clan interests are also represented.

They feed public opinion to the king and his ministers, they propose laws to the cabinet, they examine and advise on government programmes, they invite ministers for questioning. Everything is done, however, with a caution and politesse that bearks total dependence on the king's pleasure.

Certainly, after 30 years of broken promises, something is better than nothing. But this is still a paper parliament, set up in 1992 by a royal decree which also allows the monarch to dissolve it. All the members are

underpinning all this is thousands of yards of thick carpets on which the small band of inhabitants of Saudi Arabia's new majlis al shura (consultative council) are treading very, very softly.

The eager young staff

are pained by the mockery to which their in-

assembly so easily lends itself. "Wait a little, slowly things will change," they urge.

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Underpinning all this is

Arab economic structure cracks under low oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Low oil prices have caused cracks in the Arab economic after decades of state domination and a reluctance by governments to acknowledge the private sector's role in development.

Several Arab nations have embarked on sweeping reforms to tackle persistent economic woes and experts expect such programmes to gain momentum because of encouraging results and slackening aid from fellow oil producing countries.

In the oil-rich Gulf, low oil income has jolted Saudi Ara-

bia and its neighbours out of previous lavish spending, forcing them to slash expenditure, remove subsidies and hike services fees.

"The Arab economic structure is undergoing dramatic changes because of the decline in oil prices in the past years and expectations they will not see major improvement in the near future," a Gulf economist said.

"Oil and non-oil countries now realise the only way to offset such a decline is to reshape such a structure, which has been characterised by government control, tight

economic policies and lack of incentives," he added.

Arab states have suffered most from the drop in crude prices as oil is the main source of their income.

But for non-oil members, the drop was equally harmful as they depended heavily on aid from Gulf and other Arab oil producers which has plummeted to less than one fifth of its level in the early 1980s, when it averaged around \$5 billion a year.

The drop in oil prices has slashed total Arab oil earnings to around \$90 billion a year from a record \$212 bil-

lion in 1981, when crude prices were above \$30 barrel. In 1986, earnings dipped to \$53 billion as prices collapsed to below \$10.

Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and other Arab League nations have carried out reforms including privatisation, improvement of investment laws, freezing of currency exchange and introduction of incentives for industrial projects with others planning to follow suit.

In the Gulf, home to 60 per cent of the world's oil, Saudi Arabia cut its 1995 spending by nearly six per cent over

1994 and 25 per cent over 1993. It also raised prices of petroleum products and services fees and is planning to privatise key public institutions.

Oman and Bahrain trimmed expenditure while similar cuts are expected in Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. They have also announced reform plans involving billions of dollars in self-offs.

"It has become apparent that there is no going back to reforms as they are producing results and are the only way to revive Arab economies. I

think reform programmes will gain momentum in the coming years," a Gulf banker said.

According to official figures, the reforms have pushed up the Arab economy since being effectively implemented around five years ago.

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 5.2 per cent annually in real terms between 1990 and the 1992 compared with 1.9 per cent between 1986 and 1989.

The increase occurred despite negative growth rates in

Iraq, Kuwait and other regional oil producers due to the 1991 Gulf war.

The figures showed the budget deficit in non-oil Arab states was cut to \$6.28 billion in 1992 from \$10 billion in 1987. The cut was mainly due to a rise in revenues to \$38.7 billion from \$26.6 billion.

Although their trade balance continued to suffer a gap, the overall balance of payments recorded a surplus of around \$6.44 billion in 1992 compared with \$1.2 billion in 1987.

A report by the Arab Economic Unity Council showed the reforms were also attracting part of the Arab overseas funds, estimated at \$600 to \$800 billion in real estate, stocks and banks deposits, mostly in the West.

"There has been a surge in Arab capital inflow in the past few liberalisation of trade and financial policies, and other measures," the report said.

It estimated such an inflow at around \$21 billion between 1989 and 1991 and said the Arab League's 22 members had the capacity to absorb up to \$995 billion in investment until the year 2030.

Saudi budget based on \$14 a barrel, expert says

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has conservatively estimated its oil revenues this year on the basis of a \$14 a barrel weighted average price for exports of about seven million barrels per day, a Saudi expert has said.

"Basically the (1995) budget is calculated on a weighted average of \$14 a barrel," the well-placed ex-

pert said.

He said Riyadh would probably earn more than from its oil in 1995 after suffering a sharp drop in income in 1994 when prices fell about \$14 a barrel.

"Every price rise of \$1 a barrel means an increase in (Saudi) revenue by about

\$2.5 billion a year," he added.

According to Renter calculations, the weighted average in 1994 was about \$14.50 a barrel.

The weighted average is now about \$14.90 a barrel — which could provide the kingdom with a nice bonus if the price is maintained or goes higher during the year.

and into the dollar.

Thus, for the next three-to-six months, it looks increasingly likely that the dollar will move towards JPY/USD 105 or perhaps a bit higher as interest rate dynamics outweigh the current account factor in exchange rate calculations. We continue to look for the dollar to trade down to the JPY/USD 92 level on a 12-month view, but now believe that the risk is for further dollar strength for the next 3-to-6 months.

Currency outlook

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar has experienced some volatility in thin markets during the holiday season, having moved up to the JPY/USD 101 and DM/USD 1.56 levels. With U.S. consumer confidence at a 4 1/2 year high and U.S. growth close to 4 per cent, the dollar is gaining increasing support from expectations of further Fed tightening in 1995.

Although we have not changed our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 92 and DM/USD 1.55, it increasingly appears that the risk is for further dollar strength against both the yen and the European currencies for the next 3-to-6 months. Dollar strength and recovery overseas would eventually help prompt rate hikes in Japan and Germany, but U.S. officials look increasingly serious about using dollar strength as a tool for cooling off the economy.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar was generally weak against most of the world's major currencies during the week ended Dec. 30. As a result, the dollar index experienced its largest week-to-week loss since June. For 1994 as a whole, however, the index fell 8.4 per cent, this was the first year-to-year decline since 1990. At this point, the index has still only managed to change — but not penetrate — resistance in the 89.00-91.00 area. In addition, sentiment described as being overbought, while short term momentum has been working off an overbought condition. Moreover, the recent break below .89.00 was a good sign that a correction is underway.

Thus, while medium term momentum is still constructive (indicating that higher rally highs are still likely in coming weeks) current weakness is likely a short term event in the context of the still developing uptrend. Although benchmark support remains at 84.91, most of the nearby support exists in the 86.80-87.90 range.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The dollar has rallied to the JPY/USD 101 level in thin trading around the New Year's holiday. As we have noted in recent weeks, an increasingly compelling case can be made that the dollar has bottomed against the yen with the Fed having moved decisively towards restrictive monetary policy while Japan's economy remains far below full employment. With at least two more rounds of Fed tightening expected in coming months, the U.S.-Japan short-term interest rate differential should continue to move in favour of the dollar in the near term. While Japan's current account surplus remains a long-term problem for the dollar, the fact that it appears to be shrinking could also help bolster short-term, speculative capital flows out of the yen

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The dollar held steady against the Deutschmark trading around DM/USD 1.56. It looks increasingly clear that the dollar has bottomed against the mark now that the market has gained confidence in the Fed's inflation fighting credentials. For most of this year, markets have regarded the Fed as being "behind the curve" on inflation and consequently investors preferred to hold marks rather than dollars. Market participants now seem more inclined to believe that the Fed is serious in its turn toward a more restrictive monetary policy. In addition, interest rate differentials are moving in favour of the dollar. Since August, the spread between the U.S. and German three-month rates has gone from near flat to a 125 basis point spread in favour of the U.S. By June 1995, the market's expecting that this spread will widen to 200 basis points.

An important wild card for the dollar is whether or not the massive amounts of capital outflows from U.S. deposit rates in the U.S. rise. If outflows slow, as expected, the dollar should stabilise. If capital outflows actually reverse as Americans try to repatriate their foreign investments, the dollar could conceivably rally further.

We are optimistic about the dollar's prospects against the DM and expect the dollar to trade in the DM/USD 1.55-to-1.60 range over the next 12 months. The Deutschmark should however be strong on the European crosses, with political uncertainties besieging some of the European countries like France and Italy while fiscal burdens weigh down other European countries like Sweden and Denmark.

Technical View: The Deutschmark gained 1.8 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and is attempting to defend below post-February 1994 uptrend channel. The mark advanced 12.0 per cent for 1994. Sentiment has moved into oversold territory. Momentum still seems to have the potential to remain under pressure until late January or early February. These points suggest that a potentially important medium term top is in place.

Although the 1.58 DM/U.S.\$ level still has to be moni-

tored as important support, further weakness through 1.595 would lay the groundwork for a move toward 1.64-1.68. Benchmark resistance remains at 1.486, but there is intervening resistance near 1.54.

Against the yen, the D-mark gained 1.3 per cent last week (and was essentially unchanged for the year). Medium term oscillators have been under pressure since mid October, but there are initial signs that momentum is beginning to firm up (even though they are not yet oversold). This potentially important change will have to be monitored closely in coming weeks. Support exists at 59.60, with resistance coming in above 66.50.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The pound made some gains against the U.S. and the Deutsche, rising to USD/GBP 1.66 and DM/GBP 2.43. U.K. fundamentals continue to look good. While underlying inflation — retail price inflation less mortgage interest payments — picked up a little, rising to 2.3 per cent in November following October's low of 2 per cent — the lowest level in 27 years. Inflation still remains in the lower half of the Chancellor's 1.4 per cent target range. Real GDP rose 4.2 per cent in the third quarter following a 4.1 per cent increase for the second quarter and growth for 1994 should average an impressive 3.7 per cent.

However, with very little spare capacity left in the U.K. economy, inflation is likely to begin picking up soon and our London-based economists expect base rates to be increased by another 50 basis points sometime in the second quarter of 1995. Germany is expected to shift to a less accommodative monetary policy by the middle of next year. However, German officials rule — the Lombard and discount rates — are expected to remain unchanged during the first half of 1995 and that should widen the short-term interest differential between Germany and the U.K.

We therefore look for the pound to appreciate against the mark to DM/GBP 2.50 in 12-months time and we expect the pound to follow the mark higher against the dollar to our 12-month forecast of USD/GBP 1.61. One risk for the pound, though, is political uncertainty in U.K. Prime Minister John Major's grip on the Conservative majority is rather tenuous and polls indicate that Conservatives would lose a parliamentary election if one were held this year.

Technical View: The British pound advanced 1.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Dec. 30. The currency posted a 5.8 per cent net gain for 1994. Sentiment continues to improve and is now oversold. Momentum is weak and has the potential to remain so until February. Important nearby support exists down to 1.526 U.S.\$/L, and a break below that level would allow for a test of the January low at \$1.456. Resistance exists near \$1.58, then \$1.645.

Against the DM, sterling fell 0.6 per cent last week and 5.6 per cent for the year. Momentum has peaked, suggesting that the rally since September is over. Resistance exists at 2.465, and nearby support exists at 2.41.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

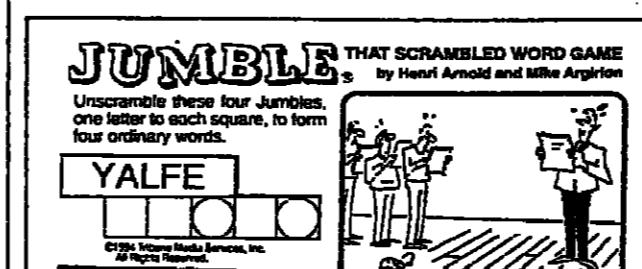


"I'm washing all the dental floss we used this week. Do I use the 'delicate' cycle?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABELED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Milt Argovian



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: FORGO FIFTY WINNOW MINGLE

Answer: Why the watchmaker didn't get the raise — HIS TIMING WAS OFF

Record inflation batters Turkish premier's promises

ANKARA (R) — Three years after Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's conservatives came to power promising to tame Turkey's 65 per cent inflation, price increases surged to record-breaking triple digits.

The Central Bank of Statistics has said that the wholesale price index — the indicator the government uses to measure inflation — soared 8.3 per cent last month, hitting 149.6 per cent for 1994.

Year-on-year consumer price inflation was 125.5 per cent, it said. Both figures were the highest on record.

Economists blamed the sharp rises on public sector price hikes in late November and early December. The increases had been delayed ahead of a key by-election that was later cancelled by the constitutional court.

Ms. Ciller, then an economics professor, was the architect of her True Path Party's (DYP) programme to lower inflation to less than 10 per cent within 500 days, from December 1991.

The promises helped carry the DYP to victory in the 1991 elections and landed Ms. Ciller's a seat as economy minister. She assumed the party's chair and became prime minister in June 1993 when her predecessor, Suleyman Demirel, was elected president.

Ms. Ciller now says she hopes to bring inflation down to 22.5 per cent at end-1995, but economists' forecasts range between 65 per cent and 100 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With Venus moving into Sagittarius and the Aries Moon trining Jupiter your morning is very well aspected and you should be able to accomplish a lot of the errands you have to complete on your long list.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Talk over plans for the future with your loved ones. Avoid an irate bigwig. Handle whatever your mate has expected of you for some time.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Know what it is your partners want of you and come to a fine understanding. This is a good day to build up the ego of a partner.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will gain you greater benefits from your tasks you have agreed to complete. Avoid any temperamental outbursts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may be under tense conditions today, so try to get into something pleasant and find relief you need for peace of mind.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are busy with your loved ones they will not obey so apply the soft pedal and they will cooperate. By the same token, don't permit a higher-up to push you around.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you get together with fellow associates and friends, much can be accomplished of a constructive nature now. Show that you are clever.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Confer with financial experts who can give you right advice about how to add to your present assets and be very successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to find better ways of advancing in your career and to make new associations. A good day to make arrangements for a trip.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to do your regular activities more efficiently so that you can advance more quickly. Don't neglect your weekly marketing.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a fine plan and getting partners to agree to it will be easy. Visit with close friends and drive carefully on the highway.

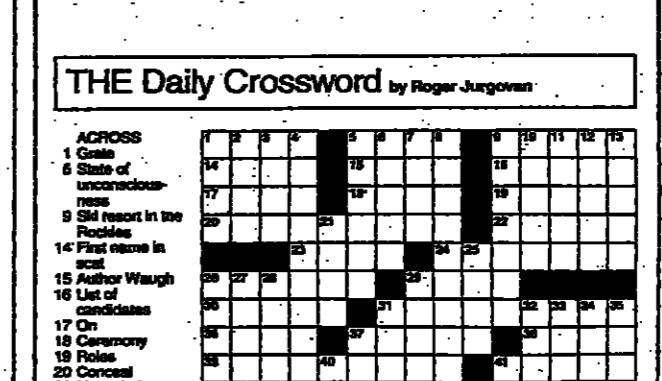
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Any business affairs you have in mind will work out well if you put your energy into it. Be efficient, you are being watched by some bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You feel inspired this morning and can gain your aims more quickly than usual. Be romantic with the one you love.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword

by Roger Jurgens



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Business & Finance

the reforms were also a part of the Arab Development Fund, estimated at \$60 billion in real estate, stocks and banks deposited in the West.

"There has been a significant few liberalisation, trade and financial policies and other measures," port said.

It estimated such an inflow of around \$21 billion between 1989 and 1991 and said the Arab League's 22 members had the capacity to absorb up to \$30 billion in investment by the year 2030.

**in batters
er's promise**

cent in January. "Money inflation is lower than expected. They don't reflect the price hikes," he said.

Turkey raised prices of goods and services, including sugar and petrol, by some per cent in the past six months.

Ms. Ciller, then an economics professor, was architect of her True Party's (DYP) programme, lower inflation to less than one cent within 500 days from December 1991.

The promises helped the DYP to victory in the 1991 elections and last Ms. Ciller's seat as economy minister. She assumed the party's chair and became prime minister in June 1992 when her predecessor, Selman Demirel, was dead.

Ms. Ciller now says she hopes to bring inflation down to 2.5 per cent at end-1995 but economists' forecasts range between 65 per cent and 100 per cent.

COPE

AY. JANUARY 7, 1995

By David Fisher-Douglas

Venice moves into Santiago as first marketing network established in a bid to the east.

London's oil market to the fore again. Who will win the race?

Whatever it gains you can agree to nominate Aviva.

It's all about the future and fast

and boom with your business and me, and we'll do what we need to do to make it work.

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Reigning champion Cowboys open playoffs

DALLAS (AP) — Receiver Michael Irvin scoffs at a U.S. magazine cover proclaiming "Dallas is dead," vowing the Cowboys will win their third straight Super Bowl before this month is over.

"We will do it. I promise," Irvin said. "We will go to the Super Bowl. We will get our third straight. We will do something no other team has done."

The Cowboys play host to Green Bay Sunday in a National Football League (NFL) quarter-final game. Other playoff games find cage at San Francisco and Cleveland at Pittsburgh Saturday plus Miami at San Diego Sunday.

Sport magazine's declaration of San Francisco as the NFL title favourite over the Cowboys was made into a poster that hangs in the Dallas locker room. The 49ers had the league's best record, beating Dallas in the process.

Dallas defeated Green Bay 42-31 in November, with star rusher Emmitt Smith gaining 133 yards on 32 carries. The Packers kept NFL rushing leader Barry Sanders to minus-1 yard last week to eliminate Detroit.

"I was very surprised at what they did to Barry and I applaud them for it," Smith said. "I'm sure they will try to shut me down the same way. They probably think there's no reason they can't do it to me."

Dallas had a first-round bye before facing the Packers, making the Cowboys anxious for action.

"I expect us to play with a lot more emotion," Smith said. "We know what's at stake. We don't want anyone kicking our behinds."

San Francisco might be the team to do it in the NFL semi-finals, provided they get past the visiting Bears.

Chicago coach Dave Wannstedt, an assistant for Dallas two years ago, knows the unlikely task his team faces against the NFL regular-season champions.

"We're such a big underdog that we might have to take some chances," he said. "We have to find a way to move the ball and stop them. We have to play the best we have all season and make a couple of breaks happen."

Cleveland and Pittsburgh, NFL rivals for 40 years separated by only 160km, have traded harsh words for years. The Steelers swept Cleveland in two meetings this season, but this week's game is by far the most important.

"You have to get ready for all-out war," Pittsburgh linebacker Greg Lloyd said. "We know each other well. We will line up and say: 'Here we come. Stop us. What else is there left to say?'

Two more triumphs. The Dolphins must first defeat San Diego, which started the season 6-0 before slumping home 5-5 the rest of the way.

"They present a lot of problems because they play a lot of zone defence and play well as a team," Miami receiver Irving Fryar said. "We have to run tight pass patterns and cut down on the mistakes we have had."

Two years ago, Dan Marino guided Miami to a 31-0 playoff rout of San Diego in a rainstorm. The Dolphins have won all three prior playoff meetings with the chargers, but Marino is winless in three regular-season games in San Diego.

"We have a very good chance of winning," San Diego coach Bob Ross said. "It starts with not giving up any big, easy, cheap plays defensively. With a guy like Marino, you have to be careful."

Kotite was fired by Philadelphia after a seven-game losing streak tumbled the Eagles out of the playoffs. New Eagles' owner Jeff Lurie wanted to ditch Kotite after taking charge.

Kotite's likely replacement is Dick Vermeil, who guided Philadelphia from 1976-1982. He led the Eagles to the 1980 Super Bowl and went 57-51 before quitting, saying he was burned out on coaching.

Vermeil has been a television commentator for the past 12 years, but is being lured back by a 10 million-dollar deal to be coach and general manager for five years.

Another ex-coach working as a television commentator, Jimmy Johnson, decided to

Coaching chaos hits NFL losers

National Football League teams out of Super Bowl contention continued a coaching shuffle Thursday, with one new hiring and some coaches getting new deals.

The New York Jets named Rich Kotite their new coach, replacing Peter Carroll after the Jets went 6-10.

Carroll, a former defensive coordinator, was in his first campaign after replacing Bruce Coslet. The Jets ended the season with a five-game losing streak, driving from playoff contention and sealing Carroll's fate.

"We have a very good chance of winning," San Diego coach Bob Ross said. "It starts with not giving up any big, easy, cheap plays defensively. With a guy like Marino, you have to be careful."

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stay on the sidelines for another year. Johnson's replacement in Dallas, Barry Switzer, had his contract rolled over, extending his current deal through the 1999 season.

Some coaches kept jobs despite poor showings.

Tampa Bay officials said Thursday they will retain Sam Wyche despite a 16-32 record over his three seasons. A 6-10 campaign was the 12th straight with double-digit losses.

Houston suffered through an NFL-worst 2-14 season and fired Jack Pardee midway through the season. His replacement, Jeff Fisher, will remain in charge for next season, the Oilers announced Thursday.

Also keeping his post is Detroit's Wayne Fontes, who received a two-year contract extension Friday despite the Lions' first-round playoff ouster.

University of Miami coach Dennis Erickson will be interviewed for vacant jobs in Denver and Seattle. Seattle dumped Tom Flores and Denver dropped Wade Phillips after their final games.

Two teams still in the playoffs are likely to lose assistants, San Francisco offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan is likely to get whichever job Erickson does not take while Pittsburgh defensive coordinator Don Capers will join the expansion Carolina Panthers.

Jordan Handball Championship Ahli, Arabi, to play for title

By Rousan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Handball Championship ended Thursday with a striking win for Al Arabi 40/32 against Al Orthodoxi at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

Al Arabi and titleholders Al Ahli are now tied with 22 points and will face-off in a deciding match for the title.

Al Arabi/Al Orthodoxi: Al Orthodoxi surprised Al Arabi with a strong start and accurate scoring which gave Al Orthodoxi the lead at 14/10 until the 20th minute of the first half. But Al Arabi was awakened by their opponent's unstoppable attacks which forced them to regroup and put more pressure on Al Orthodoxi's tight defence to end the first half 19/14.

In the second half, Al Arabi pressured Al Orthodoxi's defence who looked tired and gave Al Arabi more chances to score and end the match 40/32.

After this win, Al Arabi tied Al Ahli in overall points and will play for the championship. The Jordan Handball Federation (JHF) has not yet decided when the match will be held.

In another match, Al Hussein tied with Al Salt 37/37 as Al Salt faced a lot of pressure from Al Hussein's Maher Abu Lail who was the star of the match. He scored most to end the first half 22/16.

In the second half Al Salt strengthened the defence



Al Orthodoxi's players stand helpless as Al Arabi easily score to win the match. Al Orthodoxi finished last and dropped to the second division (photo by Asaad Lathe)

area and worked hard on building effective attacks to reach a tie in the final second of the second half.

Al Hussein thus came fourth with 10 points and Al Salt finished with 13 points.

Meanwhile Amman finished in fifth place with 8 points after Al Yarmouk Shouneh did not show up for the match although Al Yarmouk's coach Mohammad Othman said that he

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Ahli	12	11	—	1	420	276	22
Arabi	12	11	—	1	384	315	22
Al Salt	12	6	1	5	360	361	13
Al Hussein	12	4	2	6	336	351	10
Amman	12	4	—	8	262	332	8
Y. Shouneh	12	3	1	8	324	364	7
Orthodoxi	12	1	—	11	324	413	2

* Ahli-Arabi will play a title-deciding match.

Riches and revenge on offer at Intercontinental Cup

RIYADH (AP) — Riches and revenge are the rewards on offer here as new-look Argentina, unbeaten since their World Cup nightmare, embark on the defence of their InterContinental Cup which opens Friday.

The Latin American champions are competing with hosts Saudi Arabia, African champions Nigeria, Asian champions Japan, European

champions Denmark, and North and Central America champions Mexico for five million dollars in bonuses and prize money, including 1.5 million for the winner.

Seven months ago Argentina beat a naive Nigeria 2-1 on a sweltering Boston afternoon, and the African champions have been hoping for a rematch ever since.

Their chance for revenge

comes on January 10, the last game in Group B which also includes Japan, Group A is made up of the Saudis, Denmark and Mexico.

Under new management, Argentina have beaten Chile, Romania and Yugoslavia since new coach Daniel Passarella took over after the World Cup.

Portugal-based World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia, who scored both goals against Nigeria in Boston, has re-

signed disciplinarian Pasarella's order to cut his long-blond locks and has been left out.

Nigeria's Super Eagles are spurred on by the desire to bolster Africa's record in the tournament after Ivory Coast's two defeats in the previous edition, 4-0 to Argentina in the semi-finals and 5-2 to the United States in a third-place playoff.

In the second half Al Salt

strengthened the defence

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION REBIDDING OF IFB NO. 6/94 SUPPLY OF TELEPHONE CABLES

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces rebidding of IFB No. 6/94 for the supply of the following types of cables to TCC Warehouse in Amman:

- a) Duct cables
- b) Direct buried cables
- c) Aerial cables
- d) Tip cables

The cost of these cables shall be financed by a loan received from the Japan Export Import Bank (JEXIM BANK).

Specialised manufacturers and suppliers who consider eligible according to the World Bank Guidelines are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the capacities, terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the bidding documents.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the office of the secretary of Tender Committee/TCC Headquarters, Tower Building against a non-refundable fee of (1000) one-thousand Jordanian Dinars as from 7/1/1995 and until 19/1/1995.

Bids, accompanied by Bid Security of JD(400,000), are to be submitted not later than 12 a.m. local time on Sunday, February 19, 1995 and will be opened at the presence of bidder's representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date.

Note:Firms who have purchased documents of the previous tender (6/94) are invited to collect a copy of this IFB free of charge.

Director General
Chairman of Special
Tenders Committee

Eng. Walid Dweik

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Settler killed in W. Bank as Palestinian protests spread

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Palestinian assailants ambushed a car near a Jewish settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday killing a woman settler and wounding a man, the Israeli army said.

Two girls in the car were unburt in the attack at Halilah settlement, 12 kilometres northwest of Ramallah.

Bloodstains could be seen inside and outside the car. Israeli troops appeared nervous and were closely checking cars at hastily set-up roadblocks. Army and emergency first-aid forces were called and soldiers scoured the area for attackers.

Jewish settlers scuffled with a Worldwide Television News (WTN) camera crew, breaking their camera. A WTN producer vehemently denied settlers' statements that the crew had interfered with emergency medical treatment of the victims.

Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) correspondent Maher Shalabi said settlers stole a television camera worth some \$40,000 that had been set on the ground while soldiers checked his crew before allowing it to approach the scene.

The shooting capped a week of violence that has further strained the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal,

already tainted by bloodshed and delays in implementing Palestinian elections and Israeli troop redeployment.

Israeli forces have shot dead seven Palestinians in the West Bank this week in three separate incidents in which the army said its forces were fired on first by guerrillas.

In the Gaza Strip, in the bloodiest such encounter since self-rule, Israeli soldiers protested against Israel's seizure of 170 hectares of land to build a road linking the settlements of Psagot to Ofra close to Ramallah.

A young Palestinian led a march to the hill where work started three days before, shouting slogans against settlers through a megaphone.

Several settlers squared up against the demonstrators to prevent them spilling into the building site where work had stopped to observe the Jewish weekly day of rest.

Al Birsh mayor Abdül Javad Saleh said: "We will stay loyal to our land because it is a fight for life. This injustice has to end."

"We are going to lie down in front of the bulldozers and fight until the last drop of our blood," said 70-year-old demonstrator Ahmad Darwish.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinians took part in three separate rallies Friday on the West Bank as protests over Israel's settlement programme spread across the territory.

Near Tulkarm in the northwest of the West Bank, armed Jewish settlers and Israeli soldiers stopped several hundred villagers and supporters from breaking into and alotted to a settlement. At Al Khader, south of

Bethlehem, where the crisis over settlements erupted last week, Palestinians organised a march after Friday prayers.

The army intervened to stop them breaking into the building site of new homes at the neighbouring Ephrat settlement.

And at Al Birsh, north of Jerusalem, 200 Palestinians protested against Israel's seizure of 170 hectares of land to build a road linking the settlements of Psagot to Ofra close to Ramallah.

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Meanwhile, hundreds of



Palestinian youths clash with an Israeli military police unit on Friday after the noon prayer as they were prevented from holding a demonstration in the village of Al Khader

against the widening of the settlement of Ephrat (AFP photo)

Rabin faces public crisis of confidence amid swing to right

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was Friday shaken by a mid-term crisis of confidence in his Labour government as polls showed a sharp swing to the right-wing opposition hostile to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Rabin, who brought the Labour Party to victory for the first time in 15 years in 1992, was Friday faced with the possibility of a heavy defeat in the 1996 general elections.

A series of opinion polls showed Labour and Mr. Rabin's popularity at an all-time low since the 1992 elections.

"It's time to end the anarchy reigning in our party if we don't want to lose the elections. We are going to have to take some difficult steps," he told the radio, reacting to the polls which showed Labour would suffer heavy losses at the hands of the opposition.

On Sunday the Israeli premier called a meeting of a parliamentary group to study ways of overcoming the crisis which could result in a cabinet reshuffle.

"Rabin is the depressed leader of a depressed people, which have a tendency to get the blues and who will remember Labour with nostalgia when the right has returned to power," the daily *Yediot Acharonot* said.

Paradoxically although support for Labour and Rabin has been falling steadily

published in the daily *Davar* said.

Mr. Rabin's popularity has also fallen in the polls. On Friday he trailed his rival Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu by two points as estimates showed he would only win 23 per cent of the vote, according to a poll in the daily *Maariv*.

Just two months ago he was put seven points ahead of Mr. Netanyahu at 29 per cent of the vote.

In the November 1996 elections voters will directly elect their prime minister for the first time. Previously he has been appointed by parliament.

"These polls are more an indication of the electorate's disappointment, than of political support for the right-wing whose return to power would spell a total blockage of the peace process," Mr. Rabin added.

Mr. Rabin has already had to do some heavy political bargaining to win support for his 44-seat government in the 120-seat Knesset or parliament.

But a poll by the Dafach institute showed that if elections were held today, Labour would lose 20 per cent of its seats to its main rival Likud.

The right wing, which is opposed to the slightest Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the autonomy deals painstakingly hammered out between Mr. Rabin's government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would hold the next majority, the poll

France warms to Iraq, opens Baghdad toehold

PARIS (Agencies) — France officially received a senior Iraqi leader on Friday for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war and announced it would re-establish a diplomatic toehold in Baghdad, drawing immediate criticism from Britain.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said after a lengthy breakfast with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz that Paris would open an interest section at the Romanian embassy in Iraq very soon.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday paid glowing tribute to his troops who fought against the U.S.-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf war and spoke of world peace.

President Saddam called on the world's major powers, in a speech to mark the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army, to deal with other countries with "respect."

"Thereupon, dialogue will replace threat and the use of force, and cooperation will take over from menace" to help nations "reach understanding," he said.

"In this way peace will prevail in the world on the level of regions."

His speech, broadcast on radio and television, paid tri-

bute to those who fought to free Iraq from colonialism.

And he hailed those who had taken part in the "glorious" fights such as "the mother of all battles" against the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

The army was "the people's staunch shield... preparing itself to face any evil," the Iraqi president said.

He warned that all the technological might and superiority in the world would not win when "the people are determined to fight and all the food they have does not exceed that of a simple fighter."

Despite the Gulf war, the U.S.-led coalition had "failed to subdue the will of Iraq," President Saddam said.

Mr. Juppe said his 80-minute meeting with President Saddam's longtime right-hand man covered the situation in Iraq and Baghdad's implementation of U.N. resolutions arising from its ill-fated 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Some progress has been made over the past months, more remains to be done," Mr. Juppe, who previously met Mr. Aziz in New York four months ago, told reporters.

In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman faulted France, which has just taken over the presidency of the European Union (EU), for failing to coordinate with its EU partners.

"No other member state has re-established in Baghdad in this way," he said. "We remain very suspicious of the Iraqi regime's intentions in the wake of the events last October. It is not the moment to relax pressure on Iraq to comply fully with U.N. requirements."

France was one of Iraq's major arms suppliers and trading partners during the 1980s and is still owed an estimated several billion dollars by Baghdad.

It advocates a gradual easing of the U.N. oil embargo to reward Iraq for recognising Kuwait's borders and complying with disarmament resolutions.

Mr. Juppe was cagey about prospects of a move to ease sanctions when the Security Council reviews the issue later this month.

He endorsed Mr. Aziz's call for a "legalistic implementation" of the resolutions and said France wanted to break the deadlock.

BY P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A massive infusion of fresh stocks was largely behind the sharp decline in turnover and prices at the Jordanian stock exchange during 1994, but despite the decline, the year was healthy and led to organisational streamlining of dealings and market practices, according to the head of the bourse.

Announcing the year-end figures and assessing the performance of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) at a press conference on Thursday, Omayya Touqan, the AFM director-general, also said that amendments to the law governing the market were already drawn up and would be presented to the authorities soon.

These amendments, he said, should lead to a better organisational structure of the market and improve the climate for growth in the country.

The annual report of the AFM released by Dr. Touqan at the press conference showed that turnover during 1994 dropped to JD 495.1 million from 968.6 million in 1993 — a decline of 48.9 per

cent. The general share price index closed on Dec. 31, 1994 at 143.6 points, down 14.9 points, or nine per cent, from the year's opening of 158.5 points.

The separate sector indices posted declines of 3.9 per cent in the commercial banks sector, 13.5 per cent in the insurance sector, 16.9 per cent in the industrial sector and 8.9 per cent in the services sector.

One of the main factors behind the drop in turnover and prices, Dr. Touqan said, was the increased activity in the primary market which handles fresh issues before the stocks enter the secondary market.

Dr. Touqan said 26 new companies were established during the year with a capital of JD 306.69 million. In addition, 24 existing companies raised JD 139 million in capital from the market, leading to a 10.4 per cent being taken away from the main listing floor of the market for varying periods during the year.

The movement of capital was coupled with a hike in interest rates and a ceiling imposed on credit facilities

and the sum total of these developments led to declined market in the secondary market and hence the drop in turnover, said Dr. Touqan.

When fresh stock of an existing company enters the market, prices are also adjusted to accommodate them and this led to the decline in prices as indicated by the general index, he said.

"The year 1994 was an exceptional year," Dr. Touqan told the Jordan Times in separate comments. "But I believe that the figures are quite healthy despite the decline."

Brokers said the uncertainty over the Middle East peace process, the roller-coaster course of the autonomy accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the ambiguity that surrounded the economic cooperation accord signed by Jordan and the PLO were also part of the reasons behind the decline.

The peace treaty signed by Jordan and Israel in October was too far into the year to make any dramatic changes in the market situation, the brokers said. However, the impact of the peace treaty is expected to reflect on the

market this year, they said.

According to Dr. Touqan, the market assumed a higher stability during 1994 and internal measures adopted by the management also led to a better organisational structure of market practices and dealing.

Following are some of the highlights of the annual report of the AFM:

— The industrial sector accounted for JD 209.18 million, or 42.3 per cent, of the annual turnover, followed by commercial banks with JD 184.79 million, or 37.7 per cent, the services sector with JD 91.24 million, or 18.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 7.84 million, or 1.6 per cent.

— The sector indices closed at 157.8 points in the commercial banks sector (down 6.4 points, or 3.9 per cent), the insurance sector at 138.2 points (down 21.6 points, or 13.5 per cent), in the industrial sector at 128.1 points (down 26.1 points, or 16.9 per cent) and in the services sector at 131.4 points (down 12.3 points, or 8.5 per cent).

— Total market value (Continued on page 7)

COLUMN 8

Marilyn Monroe to appear on U.S. stamps

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Silver screen legend Marilyn Monroe will grace the U.S. Postal System's new stamp series commemorating Hollywood superstars. The final design will be unveiled Thursday at the Planet Hollywood Restaurant in New York, with Anna Strasberg, the director of the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, and Postmaster General Marvin Runyan officiating. The stamp features the star's signature as well as an image of Monroe that the post office says captures "the explosive combination of talent and vulnerable beauty that continues to capture America and the world." Monroe, who is alleged to have had relationships with President John Kennedy and his brother Robert, committed suicide in 1962.

It may not be just another naked lady statue

NEW YORK (R) — In the kind of discovery that makes art world gape, a leading expert has identified a small bronze figure of Cleopatra that goes on sale here next week as probably a long-lost work of the great Florentine sculptor Benvenuto Cellini. Sotheby's auction house announced the discovery Thursday saying that the expert, Dr. Peter Meller of the University of California at Santa Barbara, would be examining the work and comparing it with existing records in the hopes of making a final determination. The 10-3/4-inch long (27.3-cm) statue of a nude reclining Cleopatra holding an asp to her neck is going on sale next Wednesday with the catalogue attributing it to an unknown French sculptor of the mid-16th century from the School of Fontainebleau.

Mr. Meller said that in a special meeting with Mr. Yeltsin on Friday he had asked the president to half the fighting, if only for the upcoming Russian Orthodox Christmas.

"The president replied: 'No. It is too early for this,'" Mr. Meller said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton expressed concern to Mr. Yeltsin at the high number of civilian casualties in the breakaway region.

Foreign sources put the toll as high as 30,000 and say the country is in a state of civil war.

Mr. Meziane Cherif said the guerrillas of the Armed Islamic Group and the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) benefited at first from slackness and lack of preparation by the military.

Now "they are running away from our security forces which have adapted themselves to the new situation," he said.

In Rome, an influential Catholic peace group said on Friday that leaders of Algeria's opposition, including the FIS, had arrived in Rome for talks on their country's crisis.

The Sant'Egidio Community, which hosted Algerian opposition leaders for meetings in November, said in a statement that new talks were needed after an increase in violence, including the hijacking of the French airliner and the killings of four Roman Catholic priests.

NEW YORK (R) — Frenchmen do it most, Poles do it alone more than most, Americans like it done orally and Hungarians enjoy doing it in public. That's what Playboy's international sex survey found in 6,000 replies to questionnaires it sent out to readers in 11 countries, the magazine said Wednesday.

"The French begin to look like advertisements for the erotic power of Evian water and Camembert," an article on the results of the survey said. "More than a third of the Frenchmen in the survey said they have sex four to five times a week, and a fifth of them do it daily." The magazine said that in the survey to be published in its February 1995 edition, readers were asked 62 questions about how and what they do during sex, where and with whom they do it and whether AIDS has changed their behaviour.

Responses from women varied so widely from country to country. The magazine did not publish them for comparison. Among some of the revelations of the survey were that 17 per cent of men in the Netherlands say they never receive oral sex; 48 per cent of men in the Czech Republic have had extramarital affairs and 27 per cent of Taiwanese expect sex on the first date. Playboy said most men are worried about sexually transmitted diseases — 90 per cent in Brazil, 81 per cent in France, 78 per cent in Greece, 75 per cent in the United States and 70 per cent in Japan. But Poles, almost 60 per cent of whom had been with only one partner in the previous year, are least concerned about contracting a sexually transmitted disease.